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Statement and Documents

—SUBMITTED BY—

THE OTTAWA AND GATINEAU SAWMILL
OWNERS

—ON THE SUBJECT OF—

THE PROHIBITORY LAW AS TO THE PUTTING OF
SAWDUST INTO THESE RIVERS.

OTTAWA.

PRINTED BY THOBURN & Co., 36 ELGIN STREET,

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THE
JOURNAL
OF
THE
AMERICAN
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHED WEEKLY
CHICAGO, ILL.
1917

STATEMENT

—BY—

OTTAWA AND GATINEAU SAWMILL OWNERS

—ON THE—

SUBJECT OF THE SAWDUST IN THESE RIVERS.

OTTAWA, May 20th, 1895.

*To the Honourable the Senators and
Members of the House of Commons :*

HON. GENTLEMEN—

Referring to the Bill No. 67 lately introduced into the House of Commons by the Honourable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to amend the Fisheries Act of last session, the under-mentioned owners of saw mills on the Ottawa and Gatineau rivers beg most respectfully to draw attention to the following facts and documents.

For very many years prior to the passing of the Act of last session sawdust and other waste material from these saw mills had been lawfully permitted by the owners of the mills to pass into the Ottawa and Gatineau rivers. Owing to their being water-power mills, and to their location and construction there was no other way of disposing of it. Whilst, perhaps, some of the mills might, with a considerable outlay, be fitted with appliances to dispose otherwise of the sawdust, &c., as to others of them it would be practically impossible to comply with the provisions of the Act of last session except by a complete re-construction or total stoppage and abandonment of them. The greater number of the mills were built at a time long prior to there being any legislation in the direction of the prohibition now provided for in the Fisheries Act with reference to the putting of sawdust, &c., into the streams in question. As to those of them at least which would require to be either wholly rebuilt or reconstructed in order to comply with the law, the enforcement of the prohibition would mean the loss to the owners of the cost of the total reconstruction of their mills and the derangement

of their business meantime ; and as to those of them who in order to obey the law would find it necessary wholly to abandon their operations it would mean to the owners the loss of the means of carrying on their manufacturing business and of the capital invested in these mills, and to the localities interested it would entail the very serious loss of local employment for a very large number of men.

Such being the position in the session of 1894, without any notice or knowledge on the part of the lumbermen that any such legislation as that of last session was contemplated, and therefore without any opportunity whatever being afforded to the saw mill owners affected of being heard or of having their side of the question presented to Parliament, the amendment referred to was made law.

In 1889, an elaborate examination and report upon the question of the extent and effects of the depositing sawdust, &c., in the Ottawa river was made by Mr. Sandford Fleming, C.E. The report and accompanying soundings and plan sections of the river were put on file in the Department of Public Works and Marine and Fisheries. The report was printed and copies of it accompany this letter.

In reply to a circular letter sent out last autumn from the Department of Marine and Fisheries on the subject of the Act of last session, the joint letter of the under-mentioned mill owners and the separate reply of W. C. Edwards & Co. (Limited), copies of which are hereto annexed, were sent to the Honourable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Attached hereto there are also submitted on the same subject for perusal copies of the resolutions of the Board of Trade of the City of Ottawa, and of the headings of the petitions presented in the House of Commons this session from between three and four thousand persons proprietors or residents along either bank of the Ottawa river between the City of Ottawa and the Village of Grenville.

In so far as any effect that the sawdust &c., may have upon the fish in these rivers is concerned, it is respectfully submitted that the interests of a long established and important industry should not, under the circumstances, be sacrificed to that comparatively minor interest, even if it were shown, which it has not been, that any serious injury has been done by the sawdust in that connection ; and the report of Mr. Fleming it is respectfully submitted, establishes that the allegation that the navigation of the river has been or is likely to be seriously obstructed by the deposit of sawdust, &c., in the river has no real foundation, whilst the inconvenience or injury, if any, to other interests by the continual deposit of the sawdust are not in his opinion to be compared to the serious loss that the enforcement of a prohibitory law in respect of this matter would have upon the most important business carried on in the Ottawa Valley, and to the localities and population dependent upon it.

The accompanying letters from the lumbermen, the resolutions of the Board of Trade, and the petitions referred to, set forth the views of those chiefly interested in the subject, directly or indirectly.

In view of all the facts, the mill owners submit that the enforcement of the Act of last session would be to them most unjust and in the public interest an unnecessary and unjustifiable proceeding, established as their mills have been, under a state of the law which permitted the disposing of the sawdust and mill refuse in a mode which under the Act of last session is made unlawful.

In any event, and at the very least, it is further respectfully submitted that before this prohibition is enforced, full enquiry should be made with regard to the different mills as to whether the representation now made that some of them at least cannot without permanent stoppage and abandonment, or complete reconstruction comply with the law, and that if such is found to be the case then that the law should not as to these mills be put into operation, whilst as to those if any which can with a moderate expense be rearranged so as to comply with the law, a reasonably long delay should be granted before allowing the Act to go into force as against them.

The mill owners in conclusion, respectfully request a re-consideration of the Act of last session and an amendment of it on the lines just indicated.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

THE BRONSONS & WESTON LUMBER CO.,

BUELL, HURDMAN & CO.

ESTATE OF THE LATE JAS. MACLAREN,

PER DAVID MACLAREN, FOR SELF, CO.,

EXECUTORS AND TRUSTEES.

J. R. BOOTH.

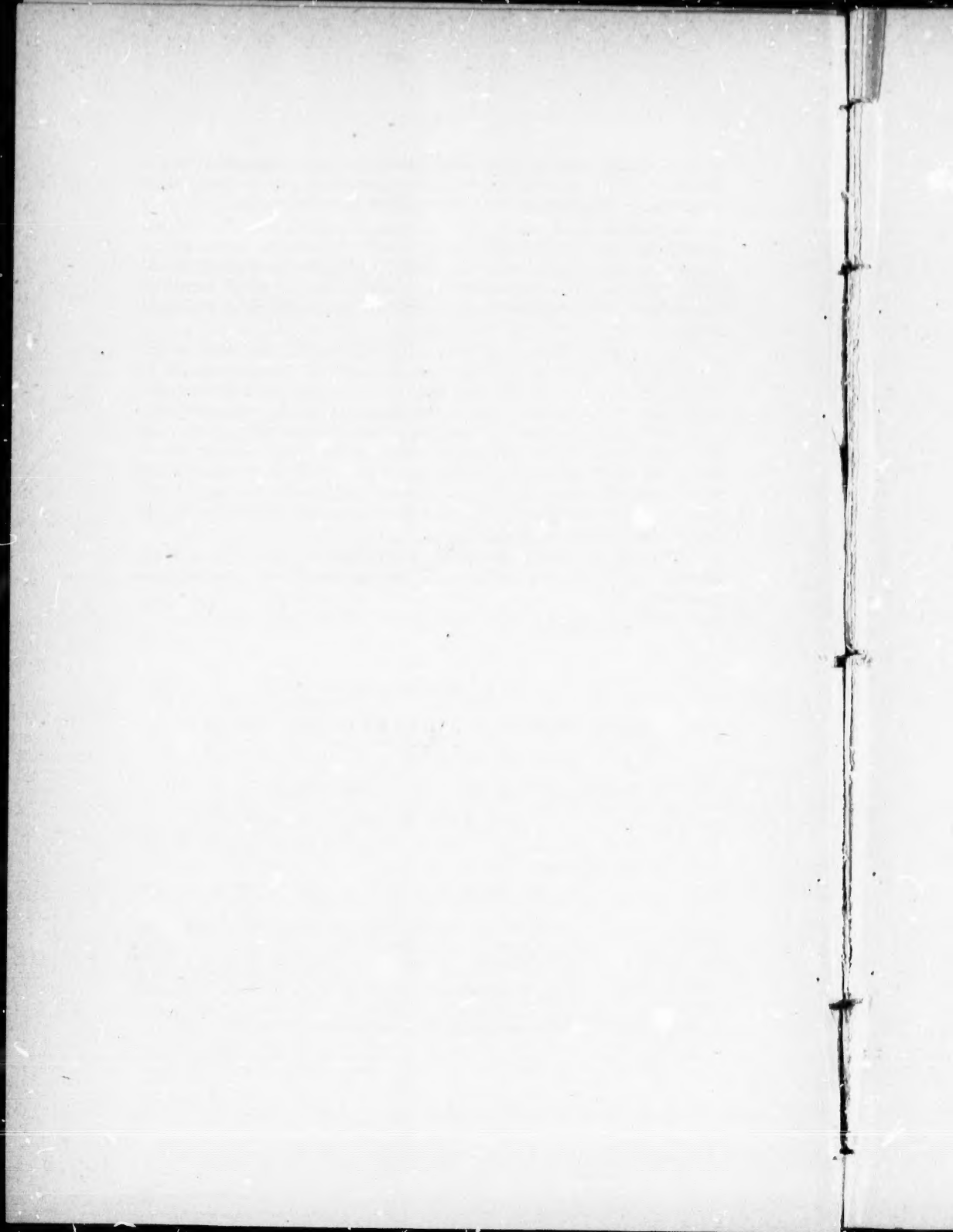
HAWKESBURY LUMBER CO., LTD.,

H. K. EGAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR.

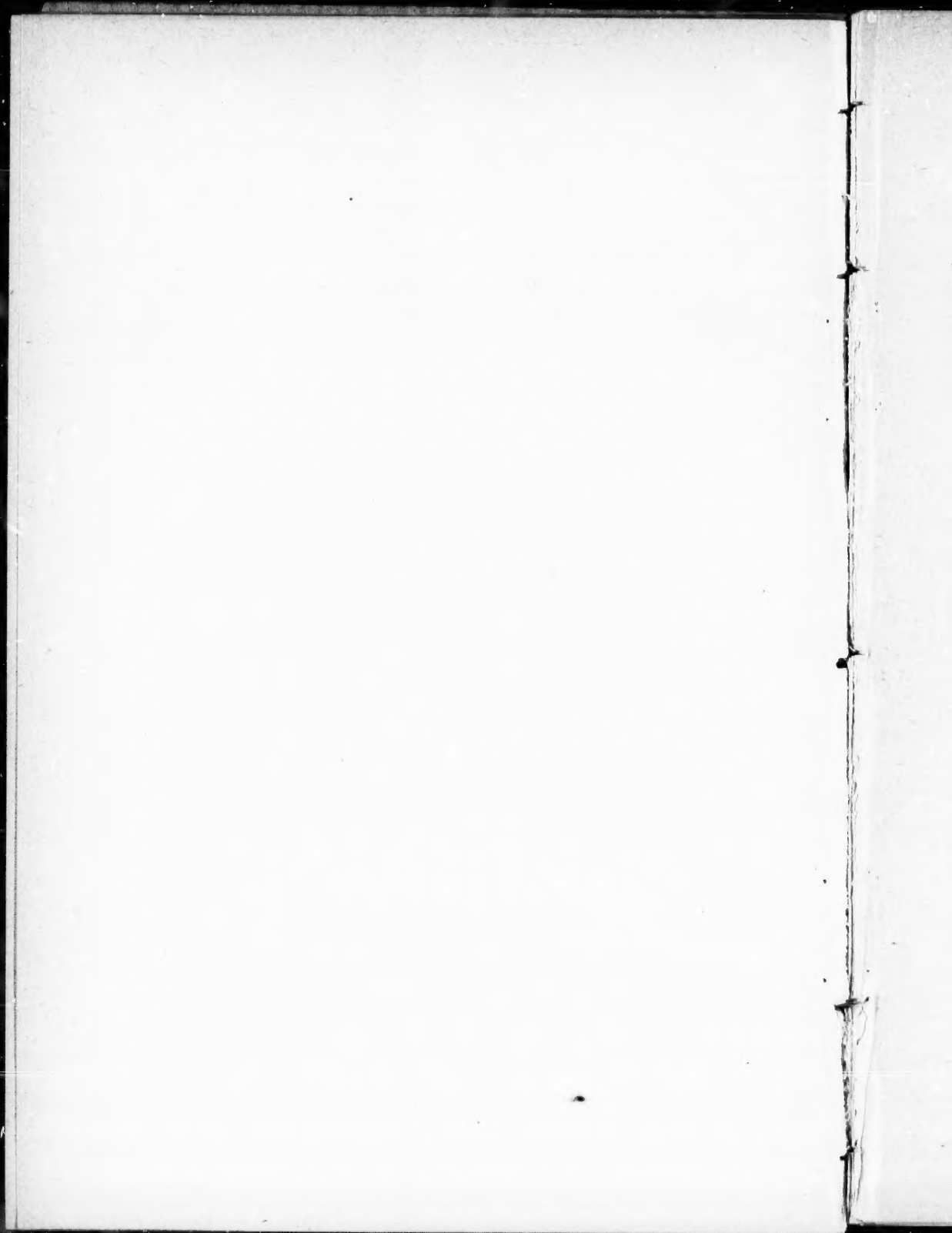
R. & W. CONROY.

ROSS BROS., in liquidation,

GILMOUR & HUGHSON,



REPORT
OF
SANDFORD FLEMING, C.E.



OTTAWA, January 30th 1889.

To the Committee of Lumber Manufacturers, Ottawa :

GENTLEMEN,—Having been requested by you to make an examination of that part of the River Ottawa, between the City of Ottawa and Grenville, I have now the honor to report the result.

The object of the examination was to ascertain to what extent the refuse from the various sawmills interferes with public and private rights and more especially to determine definitely how far the navigation of the river is obstructed from the same cause.

The examination has been made in general by myself and in detail by my son S. H. Fleming under my instructions.

The refuse from the mills consists of sawdust, edgings, buttings and slabs. A large proportion of the slabs and heavy refuse is not cast into the river, it is separated at each of the mills and generally sold for fuel and other uses.

At most, if not at all the mills, the slabs and heavy refuse not sold, are broken into small fragments by a machine sometimes designated a "hogging machine".

There can be no doubt that all or nearly all the light refuse, such as sawdust and broken-up slabs together with some of the edgings and buttings finds its way into the river ; the exact proportions of edgings and buttings are not easily ascertained.

The annual product of manufactured lumber of all sorts at the various mills around the City of Ottawa will probably average fully 300,000,000 feet B. M. If we estimate 10 per cent. of the annual output as waste we have 30,000,000 feet B.M. or 92,592 cubic yards of refuse, a large proportion of which passes into the river. Whatever the proportion, it is reasonable to suppose that such a quantity of foreign matter if deposited locally would necessarily produce some marked effect. Much, if not the whole of this waste material is buoyant and it is carried away by the stream to a greater or lesser distance, possibly some portion finds its way to the lower reaches of the river, towards the ocean.

In its passage down the river the sawdust floats for a time. While it remains on the surface it is moved by the wind and not infrequently is blown into bays and sheltered spots where, if not removed by a change of wind, it in course of time becomes saturated and disappears.

In such places where the water is still, the water-logged particles of sawdust find their way to the bottom. Owners of property especially in the neighborhood of Ottawa, in some cases claim to suffer damage from the deposit of mill waste in front of their lands, and likewise from its presence on the surface of the water. In an artistic point of view,

the broad expanse of sawdust often seen during the summer months floating on the river, is undoubtedly detrimental to the landscape. Likewise it is objected to by those who indulge in pleasure boating.

The waste product from the mills is however not without advantage to another class of people. There are a large number of families settled along the river banks between Ottawa and Grenville who appear to have selected this site of their habitations on account of the supply of fuel which is annually floated to their doors. During the summer months numbers of women and children may be seen regularly at work in boats and canoes gathering in from the stream their winter's supply of fuel.

There is in reality a considerable population dependent on the mills for their winter's firewood which thus costs them only the trouble of gathering it.

As already indicated, I found large deposits of sawdust in side channels, sheltered bays, eddies and inlets, but the main channel of the river remains unobstructed for the purposes of navigation.

I caused soundings to be taken during the past season on lines of cross-sections which were made by the Government Engineers the year previous.

These cross-sections extend generally from shore to shore of the Ottawa, across the navigable channel, at the following points, viz :—

1.	Line A-A at Upper end of Kettle Island,	3 miles below Ottawa.
2.	" B-B " Lower " Kettle Island,	5 "
3.	" C-C " " " Goose Island,	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
4.	" D-D " Upper " Lenard Island,	10 "
5.	" E-E " Lievre River,	16 "
6.	" F-F " Rockland,	21 "
7.	" G-G " Upper end of Clarence Isld.	26 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
8.	" H-H " Nation River,	34 "
9.	" I-I " Montebello,	44 "
10.	" K-K " McTavish Light House	50 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
11.	" L-L " Calumet,	57 $\frac{1}{4}$ "

Attention is directed to both sets of soundings which for ease of comparison are reduced to the same datum and shown side by side on the accompanying sheets (numbered I to II.)

An examination clearly shows that the bed of the river has to some extent been changed within the period of twelve months, and that the change is generally in the increase of depth. At one or two points, the bed rock of the river has been laid bare, so that the depth at such spots cannot be further increased from the same natural cause. I can only account for the increase of depth in the channel by a greater scouring effect of the current, and it is just possible that this may be due to the lessening of the depth in the bays and shallows and side inlets, producing a tendency to increase the flow of water in the central portion of the

river. Be the reason what it may, it appears that the navigable channel is fully maintained in its integrity, and the increase in depth is confirmed by the statements of old river pilots who allege that the channel is better now than it was thirty or forty years back.

In addition to the new cross-sections referred to, a series of soundings has been made on a continuous line along the entire length of the channel from Ottawa to Grenville, a distance of sixty miles. These soundings reveal a depth of water for the greater part of the distance which is indeed remarkable.

The accompanying longitudinal section shows the soundings taken in this sixty-mile stretch. These and all the other soundings although taken at different stages of the water, have been reduced to a common uniform datum. This datum conforms with the lowest level of the river of which we have any record, and is established by the observations of the Ottawa Lockmaster of the Rideau Canal, taken daily during a period of seventeen years. A copy of this officer's record is appended; he gives the level of the water above the sill of the lower lock showing the daily variations of the river.

I find the extreme range of level of the River Ottawa in each year, according to this record, as follows:

Year.	Date.	Highest. ft. in.	Date.	Lowest. ft. in.	Yly. Range ft. in.
1872—May	18.....	21 5	April 1.....	5 7	15 10
1873—May	24.....	24 5	Sept. 17.....	6 10	17 7
1874—June	1.....	22 5	Sept. 20.....	5 9	16 8
1875—May	20.....	23 8	Feby. 27.....	6 5	17 3
1876—May	16.....	29 6	Sept. 29.....	5 7	23 11
1877—May	1.....	15 0	Sept. 26.....	5 8	9 4
1888—Oct.	31.....	15 2	Sept. 14.....	6 4	8 10
1879—May	22.....	14 10	Nov. 12.....	5 11	8 11
1880—May	18.....	23 11	Oct. 1.....	6 10	17 1
1881—May	20.....	20 3	Oct. 1.....	4 6½	15 8½
1882—June	1.....	20 6	Feby. 11.....	7 2	13 4
1883—July	5.....	18 10	April 7.....	7 1	11 9
1884—May	13.....	20 10	Sept. 21.....	6 11	13 11
1885—May	23.....	21 6	Oct. 15.....	7 5	14 1
1886—May	1.....	24 2	Sept. 19.....	7 8	16 6
1887—May	10.....	4 3	Oct. 24.....	8 8	19 7
1888—May	21.....	24 2	Mch. 20.....	6 2	18 0

HIGHEST WATER.

Highest in 17 years, May 16, 1876	29 ft. 6 in.
Minimum highest in 17 years, May 1, 1877	15 " 0 "
Mean highest in 17 years	21 " 5 "

LOWEST WATER.

Lowest in 17 years, Oct. 1, 1881	4 ft. 6½ in.
Maximum lowest in 17 years, Sept. 19, 1886	7 " 8 "
Mean lowest in 17 years	6 " 3 "

RANGE OF WATER LEVEL.

Greatest range of level in 17 years	24 ft. 11½ in.
Greatest yearly range of level, (1876)	23 " 11 "
Least yearly range of level, 1878	8 " 10 "
Mean yearly range of level in 17 years	15 " 9 "

Taking each separate mile of the river from Ottawa to Grenville, the minimum and maximum depths under extreme low water in the channel, as depicted on the longitudinal section, are as follows:

NOTE.—In the 1st mile the longitudinal section shows the depths in the main channel of the river from the Chaudiere downwards—not in the bay leading to the Rideau Canal.

				Least Depth.	Greatest Depth
				feet.	feet.
1st mile below Ottawa				35	55
2nd " "				31	79
3rd " "				10	75
4th " "				8	30
5th " "				18	28
6th " "				10	17
7th " "				14	16
8th " "				10	20
9th " "				6	32
10th " "				7	33
11th " "				8	21
12th " "				20	30
13th " "				27	33
14th " "				11	33
15th " "				18	33
16th " "				26	34
17th " "				24	35
18th " "				22	33
19th " "				19	26
20th " "				18	34
21st " "				34	62
22nd " "				35	65
23rd " "				31	39

				Least Depth.	Greatest Depth
				feet.	feet.
6½ in.	24th	mile below	Ottawa		
8 "	25th	"	"	25	31
3 "	26th	"	"	18	24
	27th	"	"	18	21
1½ in.	28th	"	"	21	45
1 "	29th	"	"	28	46
0 "	30th	"	"	17	28
9 "	31st	"	"	13	19
	32nd	"	"	7	16
	33rd	"	"	12	72
	34th	"	"	37	74
Grenville,	35th	"	"	26	37
r in the	36th	"	"	30	50
	37th	"	"	41	142
	38th	"	"	90	134
depths	39th	"	"	82	100
ds—not	40th	"	"	46	82
	41st	"	"	48	78
	42nd	"	"	31	58
st Depth	43rd	"	"	31	55
feet.	44th	"	"	44	140
55	45th	"	"	75	113
79	46th	"	"	103	137
75	47th	"	"	113	135
30	48th	"	"	103	113
28	49th	"	"	65	103
17	50th	"	"	50	66
16	51st	"	"	42	52
20	52nd	"	"	52	98
32	53rd	"	"	50	98
33	54th	"	"	40	50
21	55th	"	"	44	118
30	56th	"	"	14	118
33	57th	"	"	21	39
33	58th	"	"	39	63
33	59th	"	"	32	50
34	60th	"	"	14	32
35				10	26

These soundings establish that when the water is at its lowest the channel between Ottawa and Grenville is for a total length of 59 miles greater in depth than 10 feet; that for one-third of the whole distance the depth exceeds 50 feet; that for about 11 miles it exceeds 75 feet, and that for 5½ miles the water is more than 100 feet, attaining a depth of 142 feet under the lowest recorded level.

Only at five points on the whole distance of 60 miles is the depth of the channel at extreme low water under 10 feet. They are as follows:

1st.—At the entrance to the Rideau Canal for about 600 feet out from the lower lock.

2nd.—At the head of Kettle Island at the beginning of the 4th mile from Ottawa, near the cross section marked "A-A." Here the least depth in the channel is $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

3rd.—On the 9th mile below Ottawa, near the light house, directly east of the cross-section marked "C-C." Here the least depth in the channel is 6 feet.

4th.—Below the mouth of the Blanche River on the 10th mile from Ottawa. Here the least depth in the channel is 7 feet,

5th.—At Parker's Island on the 31st mile below Ottawa. Here the least depth in the channel is 7 feet.

These places have been examined carefully; the shallow spots are of no great extent, being limited to a few hundred yards in each case, and as already stated there is only an aggregate distance of a mile in the whole 60 miles within which the depth is not greater than 10 feet. Borings have been made by which it is established that in cases 2 and 3 the material in the channel bed is coarse red sand. In cases 4 and 5 the borings indicate a fine sand or silt; the material in all cases being easy of removal. Except in the case of No. 1 the borings did not reveal the presence of sawdust or mill refuse in any form in any part of the main channel. It is inferred that these points are simply natural shallows such as are found in all rivers.

The evidence goes to show that these shallow portions of the channel have quite as much water over them as when the River Ottawa was first navigated. Only in the case of No. 1 is the navigation in question affected. Here there is a deposit for a distance of about 200 yards outwards, from the entrance to the lower lock. The deposit here is probably for the most part sawdust, and it is due to the fact that the entrance to the Rideau Canal is in a deep and sheltered bay, where the sawdust collects and where there is no current sufficient to carry it away. With this exception, it is established beyond all question that no appreciable injury has been done to the navigable channel of the river through the operations of the lumbering manufacturers.

Moreover, it appears that the lumber manufacturing interests would suffer very much more than all other interests from any possible injury to the navigation. This inference is drawn from the volume of river traffic, as shown by government returns. If the tolls collected on ton-

nage passing the Grenville Canal be taken as a criterion, we may judge of the value of the traffic by the following table, which gives a comparison for a period of ten years.

Year.	Total Tolls collected.	Tolls on Sawn Lumber	Tolls on all other Freights.
1878	34,527	\$28,688	\$5,839
1879	35,392	29,727	5,665
1880	39,309	33,631	5,678
1881	52,245	46,496	5,749
1882	51,153	43,890	7,263
1883	55,665	48,250	7,415
1884	53,845	46,946	6,899
1885	49,337	44,036	5,301
1886	50,620	45,664	4,956
1887	49,830	45,516	4,314
Totals....	\$471,923	\$412,844	\$59,079

By these returns it is established that the gross revenue from Canal tolls in 10 years ending 31st December, 1887, was \$471,923 of which sawn lumber contributed \$412,844, and all other traffic \$59,079.

If we take by way of example the last year given in the table, viz., 1887, we have as follows:—

	Tons.	Tolls.
Total freight of all sorts.....	684,047	\$49,830 or
Sawn lumber.....	558,490	45,516 14
All other traffic.....	124,557	4,313 87

The sawn lumber above named does not include the following :

	Tons paying tolls.	Tolls amounting to.
Timber in rafts.....	2,189	\$76 60
Saw logs.....	14,074	327 80
Railway ties.....	3,625	391 22
Shingles.....	563	441 71
Floats.....	27,126	399 80
Firewood.....	43,152	1,379 32
Tons.....	90,729	Tolls.. 3,016 45

If the latter tolls be included it would appear that the lumbering interests contributed \$48,522.59 of a total canal revenue of \$49,830.11. But taking sawn lumber alone which pays close on 90 per cent. of the

aggregate tolls collected, there cannot be a doubt that the manufacturers, are to a much larger extent concerned in the navigation of the river than all other interests combined.

In connection with the depth of water in the channel my enquiries go to show that the barges used in the transportation of sawn lumber are greater in draught than any other craft now employed or which have at any previous time been employed on the river.

The question arises, are the causes in operation, if continued for a sufficiently long period, likely to damage the Ottawa as a navigable stream? This enquiry is of great importance and demands special attention.

It is not easy to ascertain the exact quantity of solid matter cast into the river from the mills, be the quantity what it may, the material being buoyant is carried forward a greater or lesser distance before it sinks or disappears.

Wherever it may find its way to the bottom, it is seldom found in a compact body. A deposit of sawdust is easily moved by currents, and as the volume of water in the Ottawa during floods is very large and of great force it may be assumed that no deposit of this loose material can remain in the shallow parts of the main channel, where in fact the currents are always greatest.

It has been satisfactorily established by the recent examination that during the constantly recurring periods of high water any such deposits are moved forward by the scour of the currents and carried probably to parts of the river where the water is deep and still.

Taking that portion of the Ottawa between this City and Grenville and dividing the whole distance of 60 miles into subdivisions of 10 miles each, we obtain from the recent measurements the following average depths in the channel at extreme low water.

	Least depth.	Greatest depth.
1st sub-division average.....	14 ft. 9 in.	38 ft. 5 in.
2nd sub-division average.....	19 " 3 "	31 " 2 "
3rd sub-division average.....	24 " 0 "	37 " 6 "
4th sub-division average.....	41 " 9 "	78 " 6 "
5th sub-division average.....	65 " 7 "	97 " 2 "
6th sub-division average.....	31 " 6 "	69 " 2 "

From these averages we have for the whole 60 miles of the channel taken in sub-divisions of 10 miles.

1. A mean minimum depth of 32 ft. 9 in.
2. A mean maximum depth of 58 ft. 7 in.
3. A general mean depth of 45 ft. 9 in.

It will be borne in mind that all these depths mentioned refer to a stage of the water which has only occurred once in the past 17 years, that is to say when the river fell to but 4 ft. 6½ in. over the lock sill of the Rideau Canal, on the 1st of October, 1881.

The large quantity of refuse passing from the mills would in a shallow sluggish river very soon produce objectionable consequences, but the deductions drawn from the recent survey show conclusively that the Ottawa is so exceptional in its character and has depths so profound that the evils to be feared from the filling up of the channel are exceedingly remote.

I have had an estimate prepared to convey some idea of the length of time which would elapse before the deep parts of the river between Ottawa and Grenville would be filled. This estimate is based on the soundings recently made and on other data. According to this estimate it would require 350,000,000 cubic yards of solid material to fill up the deeper parts to a line ten feet under extreme low water. I have already indicated that the quantity of sawdust and refuse of all kinds passing from the mills cannot on an average be more than 100,000 cubic yards per annum. It is not possible to determine what part of this material remains above Grenville. It is reasonable to suppose that some of it finds its way to the lower reaches of the river, but assuming that no part of it is carried towards the ocean and that its volume is not reduced by pressure or by any natural process, the question resolves itself into one of simple proportion, viz:—How long will it take to deposit 350,000,000 cubic yards at the rate of 100,000 cubic yards per annum? This whole calculation may be held to be but roughly approximate, yet it will give some idea of the enormous length of time which would elapse before the deep space under the level demanded by a navigable channel could be filled up.

The examination which I have made points to the following conclusion:

1. With respect to private interests, there can be no doubt that riparian owners in some individual cases suffer actual damage from the operations of the lumber manufacturers. While this is the case more especially in the neighborhood of Ottawa there are many persons living along the river banks between this City and Grenville who are benefited in a manner which to them may be considered material. These persons may indeed be counted by hundreds, and they would feel it to be a great deprivation if through any cause they were cut off from their annual supply of firewood.

2. There has been a deposit of sawdust directly in front of the Rideau Canal in the City of Ottawa, it extends from the lower lock, a short distance into the river. The removal of less than 10,000 cubic yards by dredging at this spot would enable all vessels navigating the canal to enter with ease when the water is at its lowest stage. With this

single exception I am unable to see that the navigation of the river Ottawa has been injuriously interfered with to any appreciable extent. Moreover, if the official returns afford a means of judging, it appears that the lumbering interest are more deeply concerned in the maintenance of the navigation than all other interests. The official returns of traffic through the Grenville canal showing that the lumber business pays nearly all the tolls collected.

3. With regard to the future it is conclusively established that there is no probability of the navigation between the City of Ottawa and Grenville being irretrievably destroyed or seriously obstructed from the cause assigned for centuries to come.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) SANDFORD FLEMING.

JOINT REPLY

—OF—

OTTAWA AND GATINEAU SAWMILL OWNERS.

OTTAWA, ONT., September 22, 1894.

To the Honourable Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K.C.M.G.,

Minister of Marine and Fisheries,

Ottawa.

SIR :

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 3rd ult. in relation to a recent enactment of the Canadian parliament with regard to the throwing of sawdust and other mill refuse into any water frequented by various kinds of fish.

This practice is objected to upon the following grounds, which may be named in order of their importance, viz: That it is injurious to the navigable channel; that it is hurtful to fish; that it impairs the purity of the water for domestic and other purposes; that it is inimical to the public health, and is objectionable from an æsthetic point of view.

1. As to the alleged injury to the navigation.

If we remember rightly, the first official investigation in connection with this matter was made during the season of '72 by a Royal Commission composed of Messrs. H. H. Killaly, R. W. Shepherd and John Mather; unfortunately we have no copy of the report of this commission at hand, but a recent writer says of it "The whole tenor of this report is strongly opposed to the pretensions of the lumbermen," these pretensions being in part that sawdust is not injurious to navigation. How well our pretensions have been verified, notwithstanding the opinions to which the commission referred to give expression, and notwithstanding the fact that since the date of their examination twenty-two years have elapsed, during which time sawdust and mill

refuse have been permitted to fall into the river, it will be seen from the following extracts from the report of the last examination of the Ottawa, made during the season of 1889.

This examination was made under the superintendence of Mr. Sanford Fleming, C.M.G., whose high professional standing will, we are sure, place any conclusions arrived at by him beyond question. In our correspondence with Sir Hector Langevin, then Minister of Public Works, relative to this examination, we stated that "we would be pleased to have the Government represented by some officer of the Department." Sir Hector replied verbally that he would be quite satisfied with any report Mr. Fleming might make.

Mr. Fleming reports in part as follows :—

"I caused soundings to be taken during the past season on lines of cross section which were made by the Government Engineers the year previous. These soundings are shown on the accompanying sheets. An examination clearly shows that the bed of the river has to some extent changed within the period of twelve months, and that the change is generally in the increase of depth. At one or two points the bed rock of the river has been laid bare, so that the depth at such spots cannot be further increased from the same natural cause. I can only account for the increase in depth in the channel by a greater scouring effect of the current ; and it is just possible that this may be due to the lessening of the depths in the bays and shallows and side inlets producing a tendency to increase the flow of the water in the central portion of the river. It thus appears that the navigable channel is fully maintained in its integrity. Be the reason what it may, the increase in depth is confirmed by the statement of old river pilots, who allege that the channel is better now than it was thirty or forty years back.

"The examination which I have made points to the following conclusions :

" 1. With respect to private interests, there can be no doubt that riparian owners in some individual cases suffer actual damage from the operations of the lumber manufacturers. While this is the case more especially in the neighborhood of Ottawa there are many persons living along the river banks between this city and ~~the city~~ who are benefited in a manner which to them may be considered material. These persons may indeed be counted by hundreds and they would feel it to be a great deprivation if through any cause they were cut off from their annual supply of firewood.

" 2. There has been a deposit of sawdust directly in front of the Rideau Canal in the city of Ottawa, it extends from the lower lock a short distance into the river. The removal of less than 10,000 cubic yards by dredging at this spot would enable all vessels navigating the

canal to enter with ease when the water is at its lowest stage. With this single exception I am unable to see that the navigation of the Ottawa River has been injuriously interfered with to any appreciable extent. Moreover, if the official returns afford a means of judging, it appears that the lumbering interests are more deeply concerned in the maintenance of the navigation than all other interests. The official returns of traffic through the Grenville Canal showing that the lumber business pays nearly all the tolls collected.

"3. With regard to the future it is conclusively established that there is no probability of the navigation between the city of Ottawa and Grenville being irretrievably destroyed or seriously obstructed from the cause assigned for centuries to come."

It is quite true that the commission referred to, and Mr. Fleming also, report deposits in two or three of the bays immediately below the Chaudiere Falls, the most important of which is at the foot of the locks of the Rideau Canal. This deposit can easily be removed by dredging, and has been so removed on two separate occasions at long intervals at the expense of the lumbermen, and we are quite prepared, when this particular deposit becomes troublesome, again to remove it. The evidence adduced proves conclusively that there is no damage whatever to the navigable channel from sawdust or mill refuse except at the one point referred to, and as this deposit can very easily be removed, we submit that its existence should in no manner weigh against the interests of such an industry as the lumber trade.

Mr. Fleming shows most conclusively that for centuries to come no danger can be apprehended to the navigation. The correctness of Mr. Fleming's conclusions are fully borne out by the results upon the Hudson River in the State of New York, where the practice of throwing sawdust and mill refuse into that stream has prevailed without hindrance or restriction for fully a hundred years; with reference to which Mr. D. M. Greene, C.E., in his report upon this question in 1873 states as follows: "Thus it appears that the very question under consideration has been subjected upon the Hudson River to a very severe practical test covering a period of nearly a century, and yet sawdust obstructions in the navigable channel or in the canals fed from this river have never been known."

2. As to the question of the fisheries.

Permit us to say that the Ottawa River is not and never was what might be called a fish river and there are probably as many fish taken from the stream to-day, having in view the fact that it has been fished for a great number of years, as from any other stream in Canada under similar conditions as to original supply, etc., and we venture the assertion that the material coming from the sawmills and removed from the river as firewood by the settlers along its banks is of far greater

value than all the fish that were ever taken from it, as will be seen from various petitions from settlers along the river, sent in to the Government from time to time, praying that the practice of throwing mill refuse into the river be not discontinued.

Moreover, the Carillon dam, at which no fishways have ever been provided, has been an absolute barrier ever since its construction to the ascent from the lower reaches of the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence of the fish that would doubtless otherwise have found their way as far up as the Chaudiere, and would have effectually altered the character of that portion of the river between this city and Grenville as a fish stream.

That the presence of sawdust and mill refuse in the Ottawa is not injurious to the fish in that river is manifest from the experience of the Commissioners of Fisheries of the State of New York upon the Hudson River into which stream, as has been already said, this material is thrown without restriction or hindrance. In their "Seventeenth Report" published in 1889 they state, (page 10 of the Report) that "In the increasing number of shad caught yearly in the Hudson, the rapidly growing evidences of the presence of salmon in the same stream, are sufficient proof of the value of the work of the commission in the past, and the future will show still greater results."

We venture the opinion that the construction of proper fishways at the dams upon the Ottawa, as in the case of the Hudson where these fishways are built past the very dams, in several instances, that establish the head of water for driving the sawmills that throw their sawdust and mill refuse into the river; and the same well directed efforts towards the re-stocking of the Ottawa with suitable kinds of fish would produce the same results that have been secured upon the Hudson, notwithstanding the presence of sawdust and mill refuse in that stream.

We respectfully suggest that at all events it is manifestly unfair to cripple so important an industry as the sawn lumber trade upon the bare assumption that, as now conducted, it proves hurtful to the fishery interests upon the Ottawa, so long as the weight of evidence is strongly to the contrary; and so long as the means ordinarily employed for the maintenance of a fish supply, and which are successful elsewhere under practically the same conditions as obtain on the Ottawa, are neglected upon that stream.

3. As to the purity of the water for domestic and other purposes.

Upon that point permit us to quote from a "Resume on Water Analysis" by J. Baker Edwards, Ph. D., F.C.S., Public Analyst, Montreal, as published in part second of the Third Supplement of the Report of the Department of Inland Revenue, 1881. Mr. Edwards gives the results of Ottawa water analysis, taken September 7, 1881, by Messrs. Keefer, Lasage and Arnoldi, as follows: "This water, therefore,

stands very high on the British scale of purity ;" and again, "This particular Ottawa water would stand very high compared with the average water supplies of Great Britain even after filtration." Lest it should be alleged that this water was taken from above the mills, permit us to quote further from the same Resume as to the purity of the water supply of Montreal, which is taken from the Ottawa River below the mills, as follows : "On referring to the water analysis which I reported on the Montreal supply in 1879 and applying to these results the table of valuation, I find that notwithstanding the including of matters in suspension. Montreal water stands very high by comparison Montreal water must therefore be exceptionally pure under such a system of filtration as I have suggested."

A. McGill, B.A., B. Sc., Assistant to the Chief Analyst, under date the 15th September, 1890, in Bulletin No. 18 of the Laboratory of the Inland Revenue Department, writes as follows :

"To sum up this part of the question, I am of opinion that in the results of analysis here shown we have proof that organic matter (mainly vegetable) in very slight quantity is added to the water of the Ottawa throughout its course between the Chaudiere Falls at Ottawa and Carillon ; that this organic matter, in so far as it is vegetable, is in too small amount to materially change the character of the river ; that the nitrogenous organic matter convertible into ammonia by boiling with alkaline permanganate does not decrease, but even increases as the river proceeds downwards, being higher in amount at the foot of the Lake of Two Mountains than at the Ottawa city intake, and that in the *incompletely oxidised sewage* indicated by this factor of the analysis lies *the most objectionable feature* of the water of the lower Ottawa for domestic use. I do not think that this nitrogenous component is due to *sewage*, nor to any other cause than ordinary sewage : "The limit of safety in the matter of albuminoid ammonia is fixed by Wanklyn and other authorities at 0.150 per million, a number which is exceeded by the water of the Lake of Two Mountains, both in the present examination and in that of April (see Bulletin 15). It is, however, unwise to press any arbitrary standard too closely, and I cannot, from my knowledge of the history of the Ottawa river water, feel justified in condemning it as dangerous ; at the same time, I feel sure that it could be greatly improved by proper treatment, not only in the lower reaches of the river, but at the *Ottawa city intake*."

And Thomas Macfarlane, F.R.S.C., Chief Analyst, under date of the 30th June, 1888, in Bulletin No. 5, and comparing nineteen different samples of water supplied artificially to the towns of the Dominion, writes as follows :

"From this comparison it will be seen that the Ottawa water stands almost at the bottom of the list. This is, of course, mainly owing to the large amount of vegetable organic matter which it contains, but it

will also be seen that, as regards the organic nitrogen (albuminoid ammonia) present, the amount is four times as much as that of the St. Lawrence water supplied at Montreal. This refers of course to the samples taken *in winter*, leaving out of the comparison the sample of Ottawa tap water taken in May. It would thus appear that of all the samples taken from water artificial, supplied to the towns of the Dominion, those from Ottawa are among the worst, the impurities found being only exceeded in one case, that of Moncton, N.B."

It will be observed that the samples upon which this comparison is based were taken from the Ottawa *above the mills* and during mid-winter ("Mouth of supply pipe February 27"), when there could not possibly be any pollution of the water from sawdust or mill refuse. The result shows most conclusively that to whatever extent the water of the Ottawa is made impure from the presence therein of vegetable organic matter that impurity is entirely due to causes other than the deposit therein of sawdust and mill rubbish. It would appear to be superfluous to say anything further upon that point.

4. As to the alleged injurious effect upon the public health of the throwing of sawdust and other mill refuse into the river.

Upon that point we beg to state that the cities of Bay City and Saginaw, in the State of Michigan, are built largely upon made ground filled in with sawmill refuse. Inquiry made in 1890, when this matter was again under consideration, of the officials of these cities as to whether or not the public health had suffered from the facts referred to, elicited the following replies: Mr. Barber, City Recorder of Bay City, writes as follows: "I have not heard of any complaints being made in this city or any other cities along the said stream (the Saginaw River) relative to the injurious effects the said matter would have upon the public health; in fact the vital statistics here compare favorably with any other city or section in the state." William Binder, controller of the city of Saginaw, writes: "I have been living here ever since the first mill started in 1850. A great many low grounds and bayous have been filled with sawdust and slabs, without endangering the health of the citizens. We have roads which are made of slab filling 6 ft. 8 in. high and sawdust on top of them; so far they have not endangered the health of the population."

The same condition of affairs prevails at Muskegon, Michigan, we understand, although we have no official information as to that city; but if what is alleged by these officials, where low grounds, and even streets, are made up of sawdust and mill refuse, without injury to the public health, be correct, and certainly these men could have no interest in misrepresenting facts which could be easily verified to their discomfort by statistics, surely the deposit of a comparatively small amount of sawdust and mill refuse below the water level, and the

stranding of a comparatively insignificant amount of this material along the banks of the river, lying many feet below the level of the city, and composed of solid rock in the vicinity of the city, should not in the slightest degree be injurious to the public health.

5. As regards the beauty of the landscape.

Upon that point we admit that floating sawdust does not improve the general appearance of the river, but it must be remembered that, this is a utilitarian age and that the interests of any important industry, the success of which affects the well being of so many people, are invariably held to be paramount to the gratification of mere aesthetic taste satisfactory and desirable as that may be under proper conditions.

In considering this question it should be borne in mind that lumber has been manufactured upon the Ottawa for upwards of forty years and upon its tributaries at least ninety-five years, during which time sawdust and mill refuse have been thrown into the stream. If during that long period of time no substantial injury has resulted to any public or private interest from this practice, which we submit can easily be shown to be the case, there can be no grave danger to such interests from the continuance of this practice. Especially will this be seen to be the case when it is remembered that probably two-thirds, if not more, of the timber of the Ottawa Valley has already been harvested, and that in future the lumber industry must gradually decline.

The official returns of the Crown Lands departments of Ontario and Quebec, from the Ottawa section, and the statements of the Upper Ottawa Improvement Company of logs brought down the Ottawa from year to year, will show that during the past six or eight years the volume of business upon the Ottawa and its tributaries, especially in the Ottawa district has declined nearly or quite fifty per. cent. When we couple with this decline the fact that saws of much lighter guage are used in the manufacture of lumber than were used eight or ten years ago, we are quite safe in saying that the volume of sawdust and mill refuse thrown into the Ottawa is considerably less than one-half what it was say ten years ago.

The present situation of this question then is; that the pine upon the Ottawa has been two-thirds cut; that the annual volume of business has declined nearly or quite fifty per cent, and that the quantity of sawdust and mill refuse from this greatly decreased volume of business is very much less per thousand feet than was the case several years ago probably not over one-third in the aggregate what it was then. But even assuming that all sawdust, and what is called 'mill refuse,' were kept out of the river, there would still be a considerable quantity of rubbish composed largely of bark from the logs which cannot be kept out of the river, and the presence of which in the stream must necessarily be an incident of the lumber trade so long as it continues to be exploited upon the Ottawa.

These in brief are the reasons why we feel that further exemption should be granted the Ottawa River from the Act forbidding the throwing of sawdust and mill refuse into the stream.

We have no desire that our private interests should be in any way promoted at the expense of those of other private individuals or of the public. This is a question that must be looked at from the standpoint of the greatest good to the greatest number, and we submit that upon the questions as to the effect of this material upon the navigation, upon the fishery interests, upon the purity of the water and upon the public health, no satisfactory evidence has been adduced to prove that any substantial injury arises from the presence of sawdust or mill refuse in the river Ottawa, but that upon the other hand it is productive of greater good than injury.

We believe it is alleged, we are unable to say with what truth, that this is the only locality in which exemption is granted in Canada. If that be true, it must be borne in mind that this is probably the only locality in the Dominion where the same conditions exist, viz: a rapidly running current with an immense volume of water, conditions which admit of the disposition of this sawdust and mill refuse by allowing it to fall into the stream without any substantial injury to any public or private interest.

It may be deemed superfluous for us to make any statement as to the probable effect upon the business interests of the Ottawa section of the enforcement of the Fisheries Act as amended at the last session of Parliament, but inasmuch as it is a matter in which the people of Ottawa and its vicinity have a very substantial interest, we may be pardoned the statement that such enforcement must have one or other of two results; either that the mills must be removed to some other locality, since Ottawa possesses no advantages as a lumber manufacturing point apart from the unrestricted use of the water power, but on the other hand very many serious disadvantages, or, that burners must be erected for the burning of this material, which will tend to create a smoke nuisance throughout the whole city, and will doubtless be taken advantage of by insurance companies to raise the rates upon all insurable property within the limits of the city. In either case, we submit that the public interests, so far as Ottawa is concerned, would suffer much more than they could by any possibility suffer from the present practice of allowing this material to pass away in the running water of the river.

It would be most satisfactory to us if we were made aware as to what interests are pressing this matter upon the attention of the Government, what protests have been entered against the continuance of the present practice. So far as we know, any representations made to the Government in the premises have been in favor of permitting sawdust and mill refuse to fall into the river, not asking that it be prohibited.

Some ten years ago, when the trade were threatened with vexatious suits, the Provincial Government thought the matter of sufficient importance to make an enactment, which reads in part as follows : "..... the Court or Judge may refuse to grant an injunction in any such action or other proceedings, in case it is proved to the satisfaction of such Court or Judge by the person against whom such injunction is claimed that, having regard to all the circumstances, it is on the whole proper and expedient not to grant the same, and for that purpose shall take into consideration the importance of the lumber trade to the locality wherein such injury, damage or interference takes place, and the benefit and advantage, direct and consequential, which such trade confers on the locality and on the inhabitants thereof, and shall weigh the same against the private injury, damage or interference complained of;" 48 Vic., Chap. 24.

Surely the trade and the thousands of men engaged directly and indirectly in it have a right to expect the same measure of fair and reasonable treatment from the Government of Canada.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed)

THE BRONSONS & WESTON LUMBER CO., LTD.,

BY E. H. BRONSON.

BUELL, HURDMAN & CO.,

ESTATE OF THE LATE JAS. MACLAREN,

PER DAVID MACLAREN, FOR SELF, CO.,

EXECUTORS AND TRUSTEES.

J. R. BOOTH.

HAWKESBURY LUMBER CO., LTD.,

H. K. EGAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR.

R. & W. CONROY.

ROSS BROS., in liquidation,

G. L. PARKER, ATTORNEY.

GILMOUR & HUGHSON.

SEPARATE REPLY

—OF—

W. C. EDWARDS & CO.

ROCKLAND, ONT., Sept. 24th, 1894.

To the Hon. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa :

SIR—We duly received your circular letter referring to the action of the Dominion Parliament during the last session in the matter of sawdust and mill refuse, and although not personally interested to any great extent ourselves, yet, being life-long residents on the bank of the Ottawa River, and for many years interested in the sawmill and forwarding business on the Ottawa, it has from the first been our intention to reply to your circular and give you our views upon the subject, and pressure of business is the only cause for our not having done so sooner.

The subject is one of great importance, not only to the lumber trade, but is also of very great importance to the whole district of country adjacent to the Ottawa River, and in any discussion of the subject we look upon it that the general interests of the country should be considered and not individual interests, and in this spirit we will endeavor to deal with it.

The four questions that we have generally heard raised as affected by putting sawdust and mill refuse in the river, are those of navigation, the fisheries, the public health and danger to life. As to the first named we may say that no one can be in a better position to judge than ourselves, and in our long and large experience we have never known of any inconvenience, hindrance or delay in the navigation of the Ottawa River as a result of sawdust being put into the stream, excepting what may have been suffered at the foot of the locks at Ottawa. In no other way has the commercial navigation of the Ottawa River ever been impeded. It is true that sawdust may accumulate to some extent in bays and such places, and it is possible, also, that where there are great inequalities in the bed of the river, sawdust may dwell to a more or less extent, but otherwise it has never been known to accumulate or dwell in the channel of the river. To this we are in a position to bear the strongest testimony.

Now as to the fish question, large quantities have been taken from the river for many years, and large quantities are still taken from it. The population has largely increased and fishermen have also increased. We do not know that fish have diminished in the river, but while it is possible they have we know of no cause that can be adduced but incessant fishing. We have never heard the settlers along the banks of the river complain or advance in any way the theory that the number of fish has lessened in the stream as a result of putting sawdust in it, but we have frequently heard the assertion made by city people who know nothing whatever of the matter. We do, however, know of our own observation, a means by which we would consider it quite possible that the quantity of fish has been diminished. Years ago there were no fish taken from the stream except by the residents along the river for family use, and by an occasional sportsman; but for several years past a large traffic has been carried on, and is still being carried on, in fishing with nets and selling the fish in the Ottawa market. This, we think, on investigation will prove the means by which the fish supply of the Ottawa River has been lessened, if it is lessened.

As to the question of health, we have frequently heard it asserted that the water of the river was rendered impure and unhealthy as a result of sawdust being allowed to go into the stream. We are unable to deal with the subject scientifically, but we can say with all sincerity that we know of no evidence whatever to justify the assertion that any deleterious effects whatever result from this cause. The village of Rockland, with two thousand inhabitants, gets its water supply from the Ottawa. No doubt many other villages along the stream are similarly situated in this respect, as well as a great number of the farmers, but we have yet to learn of the first case of injury in any respect from drinking Ottawa River water; but otherwise we have always heard it spoken of as being good and wholesome water.

Lastly, as to the danger to life, we have never seen anything of the kind ourselves, but we have heard of explosions whereby quantities of ice have been broken up and thrown into the air, and we have heard it asserted by those opposed to the sawdust question that this was a danger to life, and that these explosions resulted from gases formed from accumulations of sawdust in the bed of the stream. We can offer nothing in reply to this, as we know nothing of the circumstances, but the reports we have heard, excepting this, that we have heard of similar explosions on lakes, where no sawmills or sawdust ever existed.

We have given you our views so far as we can in writing on the four points we mentioned, and none of which in our opinion form any just grounds for complaint. And it is our opinion that no contention exists on this question arising from those engaged in traffic or navigation on the Ottawa River; or from the settlers or occupants on the banks of the river.

There is, we understand, a prevailing idea that our case at Rockland is an example of what can be done generally. But this is a serious error. The most convenient way of disposing of our mill refuse here is to burn it. The appliances for doing so were constructed at a cost of ten thousand dollars. At our smaller mill at New Edinburgh, which is on the side of a cliff, the same can be carried out at small cost, and in the construction of this mill we had this in view, and regardless of any law we are going to build a burner there also, because it is the better means of disposing of our refuse. But there is no parallel case on the Ottawa. The situation with each of the other lumbermen having water mills is this:—The mill is built in the bed of the stream, it is low down; there is no means whatever of getting in carriers to concentrate the sawdust and elevate it into burners. If the mills were high enough and it could be done, the cost for the water mills would be say from \$20,000 to \$50,000 each for the carriers and burners, saying nothing about the cost of operating it afterwards. But it is our frank opinion that in most, if not in every case, reconstruction would have to take place, in which event no estimate of costs could be ventured.

Finally allow us to say this: We are competing lumbermen, and if we had in view our own selfish interests, we would join the crusade against all lumbermen putting sawdust in the river. But we are unable to join any campaign that has no foundation in truth, and one that if successful will be detrimental to the best interests of the entire Ottawa River. And if we were permitted to advise you, we would suggest this. The period of time between the meeting of Parliament and the first of May next is too short a time to permit of the re-construction or removal of the mills, if it must be done. Is it not better to arrange for a suspension of the operations of the Act for another year, and appoint a commission composed of practical independent men to investigate the whole matter in all its phases as early as possible in the session of 1895. There is little doubt in our minds that in Parliament many will be influenced by the conditions of their own surroundings, not knowing the true condition of the Ottawa. But if the evidence taken by a commission and the report of said commission was laid before Parliament, members would be in a much better position to judge of the matter on its true merits.

We beg to apologize for troubling you with this long letter, our only excuse being the gravity and importance of the subject involved.

Yours, etc.,

W. C. EDWARDS & CO.

RESOLUTION
OF THE
OTTAWA BOARD OF TRADE.

OTTAWA, 26th February, 1895.

The Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

SIR,

I am directed by the Board to transmit to you for your consideration a resolution passed at a general meeting of which the following is a copy:—

That whereas the amendment of the Fisheries Act passed the last session of Parliament revokes the exemption granted to the sawn lumber manufacturers of the Ottawa Valley and compels them from the first of May next to find other means for the disposal of their sawdust.

Whereas the practice of depositing sawdust in the Ottawa river and its tributaries has existed for the past forty years, and

Whereas all the water mills on the Ottawa and tributaries have been constructed with a view of thus disposing of their sawdust, and

Whereas these mills have now and have always been the main industry of the Ottawa Valley, giving employment to thousands of persons at all times of the year, and

Whereas the manufacture of sawn lumber in later years is being largely done in the woods by the erection of steam mills on the limits thereby greatly curtailing cost of same.

Be it therefore resolved that this Board is of the opinion that if there be any damage or injury arising from the practice of throwing sawdust or mill refuse into the Ottawa or its tributaries it has already been done and that the few remaining years the industry is likely to continue will add but little if any to existing conditions, and

That this Board strongly protests against any action of Parliament that would tend to drive this industry from its present location, and would earnestly impress on the Government our objections to any restrictions that would have this effect, and

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries with a request that he will place it before the Government, respectfully asking their careful consideration of this important question.

All of which I have the honor to submit respectfully and have the honor to be,

Yours, &c.,

N. S. GARLAND,

Secretary.

(The resolution contained in this letter was passed at a meeting of the Board of Trade, held on the 6th November, 1894.)

PETITION

OF

RIPARIAN PROPRIETORS AND RESIDENTS ALONG
OTTAWA RIVER.

(No. 1.)

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*To the Parliament of Canada.*

We the undersigned riparian proprietors along the banks of the Ottawa in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, between the city of Ottawa and Grenville, have heard with regret that according to the provisions of an Act passed during the last session of the Parliament of Canada, the privileges heretofore enjoyed by the saw-mills upon the Ottawa river and its tributaries, of throwing sawdust and mill refuse into the water, will be withdrawn after the 1st May next.

We understand that it has been alleged that one reason for such action on the part of the Canadian Parliament was that it was injurious to lands fronting upon the river and to the inhabitants dwelling upon these lands, and we beg respectfully to state that such is not the case. Not only have we suffered no injury from the practice referred to, but it has been a positive benefit to us insomuch as it brings to our doors a large quantity of material suitable for firewood, and also deposits upon our shores more or less sawdust, which we find very valuable for use upon our clay lands.

Wherefore we humbly pray that you may be pleased to re-enact that provision of the Fisheries Act which provides that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries may exempt from the operation of the Fisheries Act, wholly or partially, any stream or streams in respect to which he considers that its enforcement is not requisite in the public interest.

# PETITION

OF

## RIPARIAN PROPRIETORS AND RESIDENTS ALONG OTTAWA RIVER.

(No. 2.)

*To the Parliament of Canada.*

Petition of inhabitants of the County of Prescott and Counties of Ottawa, Argenteuil, Vaudreuil, and Two Mountains, humbly sheweth :—

Having learned that an Act passed during the last session of Parliament, making it illegal for mill-owners to put sawdust, mill edgings, or refuse into the Ottawa river, and that this Act takes effect on the 1st May, 1895, we the petitioners humbly request the consideration of the Governor-in-Council to the following :—

1st, That the Hawkesbury Lumber Company (Limited) manufacture pine lumber to about the annual average extent of fifty millions of feet at their Hawkesbury mills at the Longue Sault in the County of Prescott.

2nd, That upwards of 750 hands from this and adjoining Counties, and over 900 men and teams in the bush find employment with this firm.

3rd, That very many of the petitioners for many miles below these mills find a large proportion of their winter's fuel, and that the edgings, slabs and other refuse which are unground or not passed through a "hog" are a great boon to the poor people.

4th, That your petitioners are firmly of the belief that pine sawdust or pine wood does not injure the quality of the Ottawa river, but on the contrary is helpful in purifying it ; while we are strongly of the opinion that the filthy sewage and defilement from the drains of Ottawa city pollutes and injures the water and should be prevented.

5th, That pine sawdust and edgings have been put in the Ottawa river at this place for upwards of 90 years without injury to fish, navigation or otherwise, and your petitioners believe that pine sawdust or pine edgings do not effect or injure the fish that are now to be found in this part of the Ottawa river, but that the Government dam at Carrillon does entirely prevent the ascent of fish of all kinds from the Lower St. Lawrence and shad from the sea ; the latter entirely disappeared after the dam was completed.

6th, That if the Act passed last session is enforced it must leave the proprietors of the Hawkesbury mills no other alternative but to close their mills, to the great injury of the surrounding country.

7th, Your petitioners would humbly pray that your Parliament would exempt these mills from the recent Fishery Act, so as to permit of sawdust and mill edgings being allowed to go into the river as heretofore at Hawkesbury mills, as in like manner the Government did at the request of a similar petition sent to the Government some seventeen or eighteen years ago.